

Lowell Bergman

Lowell Bergman (born July 24, 1945) is the Reva and David Logan Distinguished Chair in Investigative Reporting at the Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley and director of the Investigative Reporting Program, where he has taught a seminar dedicated to investigative reporting for over 20 years. He is also a producer/correspondent for the PBS documentary series *Frontline*. Bergman's career spans nearly five decades, most notably as a producer, a reporter and then the director of investigative reporting at ABC News and as CBS News producer for *60 Minutes*.

The story of his investigation into the tobacco industry was chronicled in the Academy Award–nominated film *The Insider*. From 1999 to 2008, Bergman was an investigative correspondent for *The New York Times*. Creating collaborative investigative projects using broadcast, print and the Web became his specialty. Bergman has received honors for both print and broadcasting, including the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, awarded to *The New York Times* in 2004^[1] for "A Dangerous Business" which detailed a record of worker safety violations coupled with the systematic violation of environmental laws in the cast-iron sewer and water pipe industry. That story is the only winner of the Pulitzer Prize to also be acknowledged with every major award in broadcasting. The recipient of numerous Emmys, Bergman has also been honored with five Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Silver and Golden Baton awards, three Peabodys, a Polk Award, a Sidney Hillman Award for Labor Reporting, a Bart Richards Award for Media Criticism, the National Press Club's Arthur Rowse Award for Press Criticism, a Mirror Award from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University, and the James Madison Freedom of Information Award for Career Achievement from the Society of Professional Journalists.

Contents

- Early life and career
- Television career
- Reporting across multiple platforms
- Awards and honors
- Academic highlights
- Interviews
- References

Lowell Bergman



Bergman in 2013

Born	July 24, 1945 <div>New York City, New York, U.S.</div>
Education	University of Wisconsin–Madison (B.A., 1966) <div>University of California, San Diego (graduate fellow)</div>
Occupation	Journalist, television and documentary film producer, professor
Known for	Reporting (earning a Pulitzer, multiple Emmys, and

External links

Early life and career

Bergman's grandmother was the first secretary-treasurer of the ILGWU local in New York; his grandfather was also a founder. His parents were both eastern European Jewish immigrants; his father coming from Hungary to Cuba to the United States. His mother was a member of the Poale Zion (labor Zionist organization).

Bergman graduated from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, with Honors, in Sociology and History, and was a graduate fellow in philosophy at the University of California, San Diego, where he studied under Herbert Marcuse. In 1969 he co-founded San Diego Free Press (later *San Diego Street Journal*), an alternative newspaper, with several fellow students. Bergman and fellow student Richard "Black Dick" Blackburn instigated the probe which later toppled the San Diego financial empire of C. Arnholt Smith, President and CEO of U.S. National Bank in San Diego. Bergman went on to contribute to *Ramparts* and *The San Francisco Examiner*. He later worked as an associate editor at *Rolling Stone*.

In 1977, Bergman helped found the Center for Investigative Reporting.^[2] He was part of the reporting team that continued the work of *Arizona Republic* reporter Don Bolles, who was assassinated in 1976 while investigating land fraud committed by organized crime.

Television career

From 1978 until 1983, Bergman was a producer, reporter and then executive in charge of investigative reporting at ABC News. He was one of the original producers of *20/20*. In 1983, Bergman joined CBS News as a producer for the weekly newsmagazine *60 Minutes*, where over the course of 14 years he produced more than 50 stories, ranging from organized crime, international arms dealing and drug trafficking to the Iran-Iraq and Persian Gulf wars. He also produced the first U.S. television interviews with Lebanon's Hezbollah leadership.

The story of Bergman's investigation of the tobacco industry for *60 Minutes* was chronicled in the 1999 feature film *The Insider*, in which Bergman was played by Al Pacino.^[3] The success of the film and its allegedly negative characterization of *60 Minutes* correspondent Mike Wallace and producer Don Hewitt, led to Bergman's virtual blacklisting from the show, according to Bergman himself.^[4]

Reporting across multiple platforms

An early adopter and advocate of the multimedia model, Bergman forged an alliance between *The New York Times* and *Frontline* after leaving network news in the late 1990s. The collaboration resulted in a series of stories including California's energy crisis; the country's war on drugs; the rise of Islamic fundamentalism; the roots of 9/11; the credit card^[5] and gold industries; the post-9/11 hunt for "sleeper cells"^[6] in America; and Al Qaeda's recent attacks in Europe.^[7] It also yielded a number of award-winning projects—all with print, broadcast, and online components. Extensive web sites prepared in large part by students in Bergman's seminar have accompanied many of these projects, i.e.: "Secret History of the Credit Card",^[5] "Al Qaeda's New Front",^[7] "The Enemy Within",^[8] "The Real CSI"^[9] and

	numerous other awards)
Spouse(s)	Sharon Tiller
Website	UC Berkeley faculty page (http://journalis m.berkeley.edu/facult y/bergman/)

"News War".^[10] Drawing on more than 80 interviews^[11] with key figures in the print, broadcast and electronic media, and with unequaled, behind-the-scenes access to some of today's most important news organizations, "News War" examined the challenges facing the mainstream news media and the media's reaction. The Poynter Institute has called these sites a “prime example of what many who touted "convergence journalism" hoped might happen—journalism that leverages the strengths of each media to tell a more complete story than any one media could tell on its own.”^[12]

Collaborating with other *New York Times* reporters, Bergman helped produce a series of in-depth articles detailing the financial arrangements between Vice President Dick Cheney and Halliburton, both before and after his retirement as CEO of that firm to re-enter politics.^{[13][14][15]}

Awards and honors

Bergman has received top honors in both print and broadcasting. In 2004, *The New York Times* won the annual Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, citing "the work of David Barstow and Lowell Bergman that relentlessly examined death and injury among American workers and exposed employers who break basic safety rules."^[1] The series, "A Dangerous Business", detailed a record of egregious worker safety violations coupled with the systematic violation of environmental laws in the iron sewer and water pipe industry. That story, which appeared as both a print series and a documentary, is the only winner of the Pulitzer Prize also to be acknowledged with every major award in broadcasting.^[16] In May 2006, Bergman was named the Reva and David Logan Distinguished Professor at the University of California, Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism.^[17]

He is also the recipient of numerous Emmys and other honors, including five Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University silver and golden awards, three Peabodys, a Writers Guild Award, the National Press Club's Consumer Journalism Award for Television, a George Polk Award, a Sidney Hillman award for labor reporting, and the James Madison Freedom of Information Award for Career Achievement from the Society of Professional Journalists.

Academic highlights

In addition to being a mentor to upcoming journalists from around the world, working with and directing them on major investigations, Bergman also serves as the conduit between student projects and their publication in some of the country's top media outlets. Projects produced out of his investigative reporting seminars at the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley have reached substantial audiences with significant impact, appearing on national television, including PBS' *Frontline* and *Frontline/World*, as well as ABC's *Nightline*, *CBS Evening News*, and *60 Minutes II*; and in print, where students have been the primary authors or contributors of stories that have appeared in the pages of *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, "The Washington Post", and *San Francisco Chronicle*, as well as a wide variety of magazines and international and local newspapers. This work, especially in recent years, demonstrated that investigative reporting written and produced by students – and guided by veteran reporters – can help raise the standards of journalism nationally. Bergman also helps in securing financial support from both private donors and foundations for travel and research expenses that facilitate the students' work.

In May 2007, Bergman spearheaded the effort to establish three annual Fellowships in Investigative Reporting at UC Berkeley. This year-long program is without peer at any academic institution in the nation and is designed to nurture young journalists who want to pursue a career in in-depth public service reporting by providing them with a salary, benefits and editorial guidance. "With the economics of major news organizations deteriorating," said Bergman, "this kind of public

interest journalism involving time-consuming investigative work is endangered as never before. These fellowships will provide both a refuge and a base of operations for a new generation of investigative reporters."^[18]

Interviews

- "Smoke In The Eye: a Talk With Lowell Bergman", PBS *Frontline* (1999). "There's a major difference between *All The President's Men* and *The Insider*", Lowell Bergman has said of the comparison between the 1976 film on Watergate and Hollywood's new version of the events depicted in *Frontline*'s report, "Smoke in the Eye". "In *All the President's Men*, the editors and reporters are heroes. That's not the case here."^[19]
- "Long March through the Institution" of Television Journalism; Conversation with Lowell Bergman. Part of the "Conversations with History" series, Institute of International Studies, UC Berkeley with Harry Kreisler, (2001)^[20]
- On September 27, 2006, Bergman appeared on *The Colbert Report*.^[21]
- On February 27, 2007, Bergman was interviewed by Terry Gross of WHYY's *Fresh Air* about the *Frontline* documentary "News War: Secrets, Spin and the Future of the News." The four-part series, which Bergman co-produced, is about the mainstream news media and the political, legal and economic forces acting on it. The third installment looks at how the pressure for profits and shifting advertising dollars are affecting the news business.^[10]
- On February 27, 2007, Bergman was interviewed for the *What's happening to the news?* segment by *Marketplace*'s Kai Ryssdal about how the Internet has changed journalism.^[22]
- On June 11, 2007, Bergman was interviewed (<https://web.archive.org/web/20070603062046/http://www.cbc.ca/thehour/video.php?id=1577>) by George Stroumboulopoulos for CBC Television's news magazine, *The Hour*.
- On January 26, 2009, Bergman discussed Halliburton's record \$560 million settlement with the Justice Department and the SEC for violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act with NPR's All Things Considered. Bergman's documentary on bribery in international commerce will air on PBS "Frontline" [1] (<https://web.archive.org/web/20090228125336/http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/bribe/>) April 7, 2009.^[23]

References

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4. Interview with Lowell Bergman -- January 2001 (http://www.journalismjobs.com/interview_bergman.cfm)
5. Secret History of the Credit Card (<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/credit/>)
6. Chasing the Sleeper Cell (<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/sleeper/>)
7. Al Qaeda's New Front (<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/front/>)
8. The Enemy Within (<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/enemywithin>)
9. The Real CSI (<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/real-csi/>)
10. News War (<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/newswar>)
11. "News War" interviews (<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/newswar/interviews>)
12. Combining Forces for a Converged Investigation (http://www1.poynter.org/content/content_view.asp?id=77528&sid=8)

13. THE 2000 CAMPAIGN: THE REPUBLICAN RUNNING MATE; Cheney Is Said to Be Receiving \$20 Million Retirement Package (<https://select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=FA081FFF395B0C718DDDA10894D8404482&showabstract=1>)
14. THE 2000 CAMPAIGN; Cheney Has Mixed Record In Business Executive Role (<https://select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=F30A1FFA3F550C778EDDA10894D8404482&showabstract=1>)
15. Under Cheney, Halliburton Altered Policy On Accounting (<https://select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=F70917FE3B5C0C718EDDAC0894DA404482&showabstract=1>)
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18. "J-school announces competition for three investigative reporting fellowships" (http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2007/05/23_report.shtml). UC Berkeley News. 23 May 2007. Retrieved 21 June 2016.
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20. Harry Kreisler (2001). "Long March through the Institution" (<http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu/people/Bergman/bergman-con0.html>). University of California, Berkeley. Retrieved 20 June 2016.
21. "Lowell Bergman" (<http://www.cc.com/video-clips/g1anyj/the-colbert-report-lowell-bergman>). Comedy Central. 27 September 2006. Retrieved 20 June 2016.
22. Kai Ryssdal (27 February 2007). "What's happening to the news?" (<http://www.marketplace.org/2007/02/27/world/whats-happening-news>). NPR. Retrieved 20 June 2016.
23. Michelle Norris (26 January 2009). "Halliburton, U.S. Reach Settlement In Bribery Probe" (<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=99890734>). NPR. Retrieved 20 June 2016.

External links

- Lowell Bergman's home page at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism (<http://journalism.berkeley.edu/faculty/bergman/>).
- CNN on *The Insider* (<http://www.cnn.com/SHOWBIZ/Movies/9911/05/insider.culpepper/>), (November 1999).
- A chronology of the *60 Minutes* decision not to air the tobacco industry exposé (<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/smoke/cron.html>). (1999).
- Lowell Bergman (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1000425/>) on IMDb
- Lowell Bergman interview video (<http://www.emmytvlegends.org/interviews/people/lowell-bergman>) at the [Archive of American Television](#)

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